

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HANDLING ASH

In November 2014, the Massachusetts wood quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was expanded to encompass the entire state of Massachusetts. The movement of regulated articles within the state is no longer restricted. Regulated articles can also move within the multi-state contiguous quarantine, although there are some limitations.

There are no legal requirements for chipping or handling wood that will remain in the Massachusetts quarantine, but there are some *recommendations* for limiting the spread of EAB when handling wood in the quarantine.

The purpose of this factsheet is to help reduce the spread of EAB within the state quarantine area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Firewood: Season it, sell it, or burn it where you cut it. Keep ash firewood as close as possible to where it was felled. After two years of seasoning, any EAB will have emerged or died from any ash firewood. Hardwood firewood cannot leave the quarantine area, but it can move freely *within* the quarantine; however, it is a best practice to keep it local.



Whether part of a contiguous EAB quarantine or not, no Massachusetts firewood that has not been treated with a USDA-approved method can enter Connecticut (hardwood restriction only), Maine, New Hampshire, or New York. Vermont restricts firewood entering state parks, forests, and national forests. State definitions of firewood vary, but often includes wood under 48 inches in length that is used for fuel. This can include both hardwoods and softwoods.

Regulated articles include:

- The emerald ash borer (all life stages)
- ALL hardwood firewood, regardless of species (hardwood cut less than 48-inches in length)
- Ash logs and untreated lumber
- Ash wood debris
- Ash nursery stock

Ash woodchips: Chips that will remain within the quarantine area may be larger than 1x1 inch in two dimensions. Chips that will leave the quarantine area must be no larger than 1x1 inch in two dimensions. If you are chipping between May 1 and October 1, chip ash logs near where trees were felled to avoid spreading EAB. If cutting and chipping will occur between October 1 and the May 1, wood may be moved within the quarantine prior to chipping. Check all equipment for woody debris prior to leaving a site to reduce the risk of transporting un-chipped infested wood. May 1 - October 1 is considered the EAB flight season. EAB adults are typically active between 500-1100 growing degree days.





Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

Massachusetts Forest Health Program

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Ash wood debris (limbs, roots, stumps, and other unprocessed ash wood): Keep debris within the quarantine. A best practice would be to keep it within 25 miles of where wood originated and to chip all debris. Tree care professionals should consider whether a load may contain infested ash debris before leaving a job site and potentially transporting infested wood to a new area.

Ash logs and untreated ash lumber: These articles can move freely within the state and within the multi-state contiguous quarantine for processing. However, we *recommend* moving logs and untreated ash lumber between October 1 and March 1 so that the wood processing can be completed **before** the flight season begins on May 1. If you are moving the logs into an area in another state that is not under quarantine, they can only be moved between October 1 - May 1 and must be accompanied by a USDA signed compliance agreement. Processing must be completed by the start of the EAB flight season on May 1.



Ash nursery stock: Ash nursery stock cannot leave the quarantine under any circumstances. We do not recommend that communities plant ash trees at this time because of the threat of emerald ash borer and the potential to lose newly planted trees to the insect.

Please note that all species of ash are regulated under the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) quarantine and that no regulated material can leave the ALB Regulated Area. For information on the ALB quarantine, contact the ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, 508-852-8090.

Call the Forest Health Program for further information on moving ash materials out of the EAB quarantine zone, 413-253-1798.

To report signs of EAB infestation, call (866) 322-4512 or go to <http://massnrc.org/pests/>.

These recommendations are adapted from the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program.

EMERALD ASH BORER SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



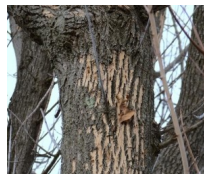
EAB Adult



Serpentine galleries under bark (USDA)



Epicormic sprouts



Blanding of bark from woodpecker foraging (MDAR)



D-shaped exit hole (bugwood.org)



Tree Damage

**Bureau of Forestry
Urban & Community Forestry Program
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In Partnership with:
USDA Forest Service and
the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' &
Foresters' Association



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